527 Members of the family who live at a distance revisit the home. Poorer families, who seldom eat meat during the year, have feasts during the New Year's festival, even if it means slaughtering the family pig or a number of hens.[6] Formosans also celebrate the Dragon-boat Festival on May 5 and the Moon Festival on August 15. The birth of Confucius, the birthday of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and the anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Republic are national holidays. Government offices and schools are closed and there are memorial ceremonies.

• 574 The family itself celebrates marriages and births with elaborate feasts for relatives and friends. Funerals are also a time for large gatherings; a feast is usually provided for those who walk with the procession and attend the rites of burial.

796 Many religious ceremonies provide additional opportunities for celebrations. A day devoted to Matsu, goddess of travel, is remembered. Her traditional importance to the Formosans may be attributable to the protection she offered those who made the

6. Low-income groups eat little meat except at festival times. Raper, op.cit., p. 274.